

1 BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

29/8 62

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Director, FBIS		
2	RMS	8/29	MAZ
3			
4			
5			
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

25X1

**Remarks:** Here's the latest revision, combining Mr. Colby's suggestions with the OLC input.

Copies are being sent for coordination, but meanwhile I phoned the offices concerned and discussed this revision with them. OS and OGC are sure they will concur. OLC and A/DCI (Thuermer) can live with it, but they feel strongly that the penultimate sentence should read "... determination that the affiliation with of JPRS with CIA should be made public." rather than the present reference to ceasing identification with Commerce. [redacted] feels the former phrase is positive, the latter negative. [redacted] feels that to the uninitiated the last two sentences as they now stand seem to contradict one another.

25X1

25X1

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.

DATE

Deputy Chief, Production Group

29Aug73

RET

(40)

DRAFT

28 August 1973

~~BACKGROUND~~ STATEMENT - JPRS

The end of World War II marked the beginning of an information explosion in open foreign-language sources (newspapers, periodicals, books) of interest to U.S. Government departments and agencies. The launching of Sputnik in 1957 heightened interest in foreign scientific and technological information, an interest shared by the Federal Government, the scientific and academic community, and the public at large. At the same time, foreign publications were multiplying so rapidly that it was beyond the capability of any single Federal agency to translate, with its normal staff, the volume and variety of material involved. Therefore, in 1957 the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) was established with a small staff supported by freelance contract translators to meet the ever increasing demand for translating open foreign-language sources.

All JPRS translations came from open-source material. Further, JPRS functioned as a translation service for the entire U.S. Government, accepting translation requests from other Government departments and agencies. It received its funding from the Central Intelligence Agency as a service of common concern to the whole Government. Finally, the Department of Commerce, in keeping with its interest in disseminating scientific and technical data, became the channel for providing public

- 2 -

access to the translations produced by JPRS. What started out as informal ties gradually developed to the point where JPRS became publicly identified as a component of the Department of Commerce.

Over the years the JPRS translation program has been broadened to cover a wide spectrum of languages and subject matter. JPRS now publishes some 66 regular reports covering political, economic, scientific and sociological developments around the world and has a worldwide subscribership. In carrying out this translation program, the JPRS serves the needs of the Intelligence Community. It is therefore an essential mechanism in the national intelligence process and for this reason it must remain directly responsive to the requirements of the Director of Central Intelligence in the discharge of his statutory functions.

A recent review of the status of JPRS as part of a review of all Agency activities has led to a determination that the identification of JPRS as a Department of Commerce component should cease. The Department of Commerce will continue, in the interests of efficiency, to handle public subscriptions for JPRS reports.